UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/537
29 October 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 86

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

(In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/70 A)

1. The General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, adopted resolutions 47/70 A to G of 14 December 1992 concerning the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (A/47/76, A/47/262 and A/47/509). By its resolution 47/70 A, the Assembly, inter alia, deplored the continued refusal by Israel to allow the Special Committee access to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and demanded that Israel allow the Special Committee access to those territories.

2. On 13 April 1993, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

4. In paragraph 15 of its resolution 47/70 A, the General Assembly reiterated its call upon all States and upon international organizations, including the specialized agencies, not to recognize any changes carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied territories and to avoid actions, including those in the field of aid, that might be used by Israel in its pursuit of the policies of annexation and colonization or any of the other policies and practices referred to in the present resolution.

5. By notes verbales and letters dated 13 April 1993, the Secretary-General drew the attention of all States, in particular those States parties to the

Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 1/ and of international organizations, including the specialized agencies, to paragraph 15 of the resolution.

6. Arrangements were made for the Special Committee to meet in January, April/May and August 1993 and to carry out a field mission to the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan and Egypt in April/May 1993. Two periodic reports and the twenty-fifth annual report of the Special Committee were circulated to Member States (A/48/96 dated 16 April 1993, A/48/278 dated 10 August 1993 and A/48/557 dated 27 October 1993).

7. In paragraph 21 (d) of its resolution 47/70 A, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee that are no longer available.

8. In response to paragraph 21 (d) of General Assembly resolution 47/70 A, the following activities were undertaken by the Department of Public Information, which:

(a) Continued to provide press coverage of all meetings of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories and the Commission on Human Rights;

(b) Continued to publish stories in the UN Chronicle quarterly magazine relating to Palestinian issues, including human rights of the Palestinian people;

(c) Covered various aspects of the question of Palestine and related issues in weekly radio news magazines and feature programmes. Highlights of topics covered included the deportation of 400 Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territory and related action by the Security Council and the Secretary-General, as well as initiatives taken by Arab States and population in the occupied territories, and the debate of the Commission on Human Rights on Israel's decision to deport the Palestinians. The Department also produced a number of feature programmes devoted to the question of Palestine, including: "Assistance to the Palestinian People" and "International Protection of Palestinian Refugees";

(d) Continued to distribute its booklet published in 1992, Life of the Palestinians under Israeli Occupation (DPI/1192). This booklet extensively used material available in reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories;

(e) Continued to feature and distribute United Nations information materials, documents and press releases on the question of Palestine to representatives of non-governmental organizations. These included all documents disseminated by the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting

the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories;

(f) Publicized, both at Headquarters and through United Nations information centres, the 1993 mission to the Middle East of the Special Committee;

(g) Provided coverage of United Nations activities related to the question of Palestine on an ongoing basis by the network of the United Nations information centres and United Nations information services. This coverage included the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

Notes

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/538
29 October 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 86

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/70 B)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/70 B of 14 December 1992, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 1/ is applicable to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"2. Condemns once again the failure of Israel, the occupying Power, to acknowledge the applicability of the Convention to the territories it has occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem;

"3. Strongly demands that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Convention and comply with its provisions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"4. Urgently calls upon all States parties to the Convention to exert all efforts in order to ensure respect for and compliance with its provisions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 13 April 1993, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

4. On 13 April 1993, the Secretary-General also drew the attention of all States parties to the Convention to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 47/70 B.

Notes

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

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Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/539
29 October 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
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Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/70 C)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/70 C of 14 December 1992, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Determines that all such measures and actions taken by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967 are in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 1/ constitute a serious obstacle to the efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East and therefore have no legal validity;

"2. Strongly deplores the persistence of Israel in carrying out such measures, in particular the establishment of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"3. Demands that Israel comply strictly with its international obligations in accordance with the principles of international law and the provisions of the said Convention;

"4. Demands once more that Israel, the occupying Power, desist forthwith from taking any action that would result in changing the legal status, geographical nature or demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"5. Urgently calls upon all States parties to the Convention to respect and to exert all efforts in order to ensure respect for and compliance with its provisions in all occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 13 April 1993, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

4. On 13 April 1993, the Secretary-General also drew the attention of all States parties to the Convention to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 47/70 C.

Notes

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

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Distr.
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A/48/540
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
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Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/70 D)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/70 D of 14 December 1992, the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Deplores the arbitrary detention or imprisonment by Israel of thousands of Palestinians as a result of their resistance to occupation in order to attain self-determination;
>
> "2. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to release all Palestinians and other Arabs arbitrarily detained or imprisoned;
>
> "3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly as soon as possible, but not later than the beginning of its forty-eighth session, on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 13 April 1993, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

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Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/541
29 October 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 86

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

(In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/70 E)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/70 E of 14 December 1992, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Strongly deplores the continuing disregard by Israel, the occupying Power, of the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Security Council and resolutions of the General Assembly;

"2. Demands that the Government of Israel, the occupying Power, rescind the illegal measures taken by its authorities in deporting Palestinians and that it facilitate their immediate return;

"3. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to cease forthwith the deportation of Palestinians and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949; 1/

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly as soon as possible, but not later than the beginning of its forty-eighth session, on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 13 April 1993, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

Notes

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

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A/48/542
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
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Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/70 F)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/70 F of 14 December 1992, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Strongly condemns Israel, the occupying Power, for its refusal to comply with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, particularly Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Arab Golan was null and void and without international legal effect and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, should rescind forthwith its decisions;

"2. Condemns the persistence of Israel in changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan;

"3. Determines that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal status of the Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the

Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 1/ and have no legal effect;

"4. Strongly condemns Israel for its attempts forcibly to impose Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls upon it to desist from its repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan;

"5. Deplores the violations by Israel of the Convention;

"6. Calls once again upon Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

"1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

2. On 13 April 1993, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

4. On 13 April 1993, the Secretary-General also drew the attention of all Member States to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 47/70 F.

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GENERAL

A/48/543
29 October 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
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Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/70 G)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/70 G of 14 December 1992, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Reaffirms the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 1/ to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"2. Condemns Israeli policies and practices against Palestinian students and faculty members in schools, universities and other educational institutions in the occupied Palestinian territory, especially the opening of fire on defenceless students, causing many casualties;

"3. Also condemns the systematic Israeli campaign of repression against and closing of universities, schools and other educational and vocational institutions in the occupied Palestinian territory, in large numbers and for prolonged periods, restricting and impeding the academic activities of Palestinian universities by subjecting the selection of courses, textbooks and educational programmes, the admission of students and the appointment of faculty members to the control and supervision

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"1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

of the military occupation authorities, in flagrant contravention of the Convention;

"4. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with the provisions of that Convention, rescind all actions and measures taken against all educational institutions, ensure the freedom of those institutions and refrain forthwith from hindering the effective operation of the universities, schools and other educational institutions;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly as soon as possible, but not later than the beginning of its forty-eighth session, on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 13 April 1993, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/544
26 October 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 151

UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

Letter dated 22 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It is an honour and pleasure for me to submit to you, on behalf of the Government of Papua New Guinea, the enclosed supplementary documentation on its proposal for a United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation (see annex). The information contained in this supplementary documentation should enrich the original proposal, which you kindly circulated with my letter as an official United Nations document (A/48/142) on 3 May 1993.

The people and Government of Papua New Guinea and I extend our most sincere thanks and warm congratulations to you and your dedicated staff for facilitating the inclusion of the above proposal on the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

In order to provide adequate information for Member States and other delegations for the consideration of this initiative, and in accordance with the appropriate rules of procedures for the General Assembly, may I humbly request you to circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 151.

(Signed) Renagi R. LOHIA OBE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION

ON

THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL

OF

A UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE

ON

OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

A LETTER

Excellencies, colleagues, and friends,

Observing the current situation in and of developing countries,

Aware of the great - and growing - global need for financial and other resources,

Noting the progress being made towards presentation of An Agenda for Development by the United Nations Secretary-General,

Determined to uphold the United Nations Charter, in particular the commitment to employ international machinery for the promotion of economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Pledged to encourage and support efforts to increase opportunity and participation, particularly in the economies of developing countries,

I have the honour, on behalf of the Honourable Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. John R. Kaputin, CMG, MP, the Government and People of Papua New Guinea to present to you this Supplementary Documentation on our proposal of a United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation.

It is our hope that this small initiative can contribute to "...enhancing the role of the Assembly so that it might adequately perform the functions envisaged for it in the Charter..." as the President of the 48th United Nations General Assembly said at the opening of this session.

We are in agreement with President Insanally's sentiments that: "...neither the world nor the United Nations will improve as the result of man's vision. It requires the collective vision of all mankind to make a reality of individual dreams."

Once again, on behalf of the Honourable Foreign Minister John R. Kaputin, CMG, MP, the Government and People of Papua New Guinea, I commend to you all this supplementary information on our proposal of a United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation.

We share President Insanally's vision and rally to the banner -- "We the peoples - united for a better world."

Please accept, Excellencies, friends and colleagues, the assurances of my highest consideration.

RENAGI R. LOHIA, OBE
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

1. INTRODUCTION

Purpose and contents of this document

1. This document has been prepared as a supplement to the Request for the Inclusion of an Item in the Provisional Agenda of the Forty-Eighth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, "United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation", Document Reference No.: A/48/142 of 3 May 1993.

2. It is intended to provide additional information for the debate on Item 151in the Agenda for Plenary Meetings, "United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation", set down for debate on 15 November 1993.

3. In addition to this Introduction, it consists of the concluding Statements prepared - and unanimously accepted - by National and Regional Workshops on the proposal, as well as an Outline of Possible Terms of Reference for the proposed panel and report discussed (and, again, unanimously accepted) by the same Workshops.

4. Comprehensive reports on both Workshops in the English language are being circulated separately to all United Nations delegations.

Background to the National and Regional Workshops

5. The National and Regional Workshops on Opportunity and Participation were held at the invitation of the Papua New Guinea Government - and with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme - in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, on 15 - 16 July and 17 - 18 September 1993 respectively.

6. The Workshops were hosted and chaired by the Papua New Guinea Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable John R. Kaputin CMG, MP.

7. Their principal purpose was to assist in developing and refining the proposed United Nations initiative on Opportunity and Participation.

8. The names and designations of the participants are shown at the end of each concluding statement.

Development of the proposed United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation

9. Opportunity and Participation is the title by which a major Papua New Guinea Government initiative at the United Nations is known for short.

10. The main elements of the proposal are outlines in the Briefing Paper which were embodied in United Nations General Assembly Document Reference No.: A/48/142 of 3 May 1993

11. The manner in which the proposal has been developed - and presented before various audiences - can be seen in the extracts from Ministerial statements and other documents reprinted as Appendices to the complete Reports of the National and Regional Workshops.

Promotion and growing support of the proposal

12. The proposed United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation proposal was first outlined in a Statement presented by the Papua New Guinea Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable John R. Kaputin CMG MP, in the General Debate on the United Nations General Assembly on 8 October 1992 (copies can be obtained from the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations).

13. During the first few months of 1993, the proposal was publicised during Ministerial visits and through other diplomatic representations in which a brief outline of the main features was distributed.

14. Expressions of interest and support were received from:

- Governments in -
  Africa,
  Asia,
  Europe,
  Latin America and Caribbean, and
  the South Pacific; as well as
- members of the Group of 77 in New York; and
- the Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic Co-operation of the Movement of the Non-Aligned (NAM) Countries.

15. The proposal was also discussed with Heads of Mission and officials at the United Nations in New York.

16. On 4 and 5 October respectively, detailed explanations were provided to the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 in New York.

17. A number of Governments have formally indicated their support, both during these Meetings and in the General Debate in the Plenary Meetings as well as in the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

18. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has offered - and provided - assistance to develop and refine the proposal.

19. Earlier in 1993, after the agreement that the proposal would be placed on the Agenda of the Second Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement's Standing Ministerial Committee on Economic Co-operation, held in Bali, Indonesia from 10 to 13 May, a paper containing the Document circulated as United Nations General Assembly Document Reference No.: A/48/142 of 3 May 1993 was prepared for submission to:

- o the Chairman of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement - for presentation to the Bali meeting; and
- o The United Nations Secretary-General - for inclusion in the Provisional Agenda of the 48th United Nations General Assembly.

20. Following an address by the Papua New Guinea Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Bali formally agreed to:

(1) recommend to their respective Governments and to Non-Aligned Movement members "that they consider supporting the draft resolution" to be presented to the 48th Session of the United Nations General Assembly; and

(2) "co-operate in ensuring that adequate resources are provided for the implementation of the resolution".

The Minister also decided that further consultation on the proposal should be undertaken in the Non-Aligned Movement's Co-ordinating Bureau in New York.

21. Following the National Workshop - and lodging of the formal request for the inclusion of Item in the Provisional Agenda of the Forty-Eighth Session of the United Nations General Assembly - the official spokesperson for the 26th Ministerial Meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), held in Singapore in July, responded to a request for support from the Papua New Guinea Minister for Foreign Affairs by reaffirming that the proposal:

> can be assured of the continued support of ASEAN.

22. In response to the presentation and discussion of an address by the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, the Right Honourable Paias Wingti CMG MP, the Joint Communique issued by the 7th Heads of Government Summit Meeting of the Melanesian Spearhead Group, which met in Rabaul later in July, declared that:

> The leaders unanimously endorsed the initiative and agreed to render support in respect of future work in pursuit of ... [the] initiative at the South Pacific Forum and the United Nations General Assembly.

23. Consideration of a short summary paper prepared by the Papua New Guinea Government for the Twenty-Fourth South Pacific Forum held in Nauru in August led the fifteen Heads of Government attending to state that:

> In supporting the proposal, the Forum encouraged members of the United Nations also to support the proposal at the Forty-Eighth United Nations General Assembly.

24. Before and since receipt of the expressions and recommendation of support outlined above, consultation - and representations - designed to secure the interest and sympathy of Governments, international organisations and other parties have continued.

25. The United Nations General Assembly has now agreed to include the proposal as Item 151 scheduled for debate on 15 November in the Agenda for the Plenary Meetings of the 48th United Nations General Assembly.

Proceedings and Participants in the National and Regional Workshops

26. The National and Regional Workshops whose conclusions are included in this documents met in both plenary sessions and smaller discussion groups.

27. The participants who were able to accept the Government's invitations to take part, including some who attended both Workshops, were distinguished by the diversity of their personal backgrounds, the breadth of their experience - in government, private sector and other areas of society in diverse parts of the Asia-Pacific region - and their willingness to travel (sometimes, at rather short notice) to Port Moresby, and to give up their time on an honorary basis.

28. Their enthusiasm is clear evidence of the proposal's importance as well as their personal and professional commitment to the interests of those whom it is intended to serve.

29. Their participation has made a substantial contribution to the evolution of the proposal.

Conclusion

30. The Government of Papua New Guinea is most honoured and pleased to present the following supplementary documentation - and to request the support of all United Nations members - for the proposed United Nations initiative on:

Opportunity and Participation.

2. PAPUA NEW GUINEA NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

OVERVIEW AND OUTCOME OF WORKSHOP,

PORT MORESBY, 15-16 JULY 1993

(as signed in person by the participants named)

1. Having listened with close attention and great interest to the Opening Address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable John R. Kaputin CMG MP, and having read the supporting documentation outlining the proposed United Nations initiative on Opportunity and Participation, members of the Papua New Guinea National Workshop are strongly and unanimously of the view that it is timely --- and, indeed, urgent --- to proceed towards the establishment of a panel of distinguished, expert and experienced persons, broadly representative of the international community, to prepare a comprehensive, systematic and thorough report for consideration by the Fiftieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the subject of Opportunity and Participation, with particular reference to the economies of developing countries.

2. They believe that the Government should back the proposal by offering practical support, including financial and human resources, and seek to ensure maximum Papua New Guinea participation at all stages.

3. Having discovered and discussed both the general issues raised and the details spelt out in the Minister's Opening Address as well as the supporting documentation (including, in particular, the formal Request for the Inclusion of an Item in the Provisional Agenda of the Forth-eighth Session, Opportunity and Participation, United Nations General Assembly Document No.: A/48/142 of 3 May 1993), the participants in the Workshop feel that the proposal has highlighted the need for a national vision, clearly defined objectives and a practical strategy for achieving specific targets in order to increase Papua New Guinean opportunity and participation in development.

4. They believe that the proposed United Nations report should be prepared so that it both draws on experience and stimulates efforts to increase Opportunity and Participation on a local, national, regional and global basis --- with particular regards for the interests, needs and aspirations of people, governments and other bodies in developing countries.

5. The proposal is made all the more appropriate --- and urgent --- by factors such as the:

(1) increasing pressure being placed on available - and prospective - sources of foreign aid, investment and loans by changes occurring in other parts of the world, including Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union;

(2) growing tendency for people who make and influence policy, both in government and in international organisations, to assume that markets in themselves increase - and provide a bridge between - opportunity and participation, even for people beginning with the relative lack of effective success to officially and commercially recognised resources, including experience and skills, characteristic of people in the rural areas of developing countries; and

(3) continuing failure by the international community to take sufficiently urgent, decisive and effective action to deal with economic issues of global important, such as those raised in the Uruguay Round of Negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade - let alone the worsening circumstances of and in many developing countries; and, in particular,

(4) need to ensure that the current "Resources Boom" so-called, in Papua New Guinea does not simply lead to the exhaustion of resources which are recognised to be non-renewable, such as copper, gold and oil, or to the depletion of resources which ought, in principle, to be renewable, such as forests and fisheries - without providing for increasing Papua New Guinean economic opportunity and participation in the short - let alone the medium- and the long- term.

6. In the course of almost two days of deliberations, members of the Workshop have drawn on their respective experiences - in diverse areas of Government, the private sector and inter-actions between the two - in order to identify issues, including both obstacles and possible options, relevant to increasing opportunity for and participation by Papua New Guineas in development of the country.

7. They have paid particular attention to practical difficulties which arise - and practical means which might be employed - in linking Opportunity effectively to Participation.

8. Recalling the emphasis given to Opportunity and Participation in the National Constitution and in successive Governments' policies, members of the National Workshop fear that Papua New Guinea may be losing -- and may, in fact, even have lost -- its way.

9. There is a consequent need for:

(1) a sense of direction,

(2) clear objectives,

(3) practical measures - as well as incentives, and

(4) action (not more words),

based on recognition of the reality that development is a multifaceted and ongoing process, in which capacity-building for self-reliance is essential.

10. Government should give the most careful consideration to the need to improve:

(1) systems for collecting, analysing, projecting and disseminating important data;

(2) planning beyond - and, arguably, apart from - the annual budgetary process; and

(3) ongoing legal, administrative and institutional reform.

11. Close attention should be paid to the perceptions and experiences of people and bodies who view development from below, or deal with government from outside.

12. In considering the details provided in the proposal being circulated at the United Nations, especially Paragraph 14, members of the Workshop drew particular attention to the need for efforts to increase Opportunity and Participation, including the proposed United Nations report, to take full account of:

(1) national values, including customs and aspirations;

(2) the contributions which might be made by regional - as well as global and functional -organisations;

(3) population growth and movement.

13. They discussed - and urged that further attention should be given to - the need for government, international organisations and the wider community to recognise that development requires:

(1) mobilisation of people and resources, based on awareness of the actual circumstances in which people, particularly rural villagers, women, and other disadvantaged groups, spend their lives;

(2) discipline and accountability in all areas of government, including management and financial control, in order to ensure that "public services" are, in fact, provided;

(3) respect for - and maintenance of - existing services and infrastructure; and

(4) due regard for changing community values and human rights.

14. Capacity-building must be defined so that it includes education, training, and the progressive transfer of responsibility, for localisation.

15. The advantages of access to the best that the world has to offer must be carefully weighed against the need for capacity - including institution - building at home.

16. Policy-makers should recognise the importance of traditional ties and informal networks (including foreign "*wantok*" systems) in defining the actual opportunities for participation by Papua New Guinea in economic activities, both at home and abroad.

17. Above all, change, development and capacity-building - in short, increasing opportunity and participation - should be regarded as continuing, multifaceted processes, which should be viewed in the round (from above below, and all sides) and managed so that they can be sustained and enjoyed by future generations.

18. Recognising the increasing interdependence of even the most diverse aspects of human life and widely scattered parts of the world, members of the Papua New Guinea National Workshop on Opportunity and Participation welcome the Government's efforts and plans to ensure that the proposed United Nation's initiative on Opportunity and Participation obtains the widest possible international support.

19. They believe that it can make an important contribution to:

(1) mutually beneficial North-South as well as South-South co-operation;

(2) realisation of the objectives of the United Nations Secretary-General's proposed Agenda for Development; and

(3) implementation of the right to development recognised and declared by the United Nations Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in June.

20. They are emphatically of the view that the initiative should be regarded as having not only foreign but - even more importantly - domestic policy implications.

21. Members of the Papua New Guinea National Workshop on Opportunity and Participation -

(1) have appreciated the opportunity to participate in helping to refine the terms of reference for the proposed United Nations initiative on Opportunity and Participation;

(2) welcome the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme in preparing and arranging for a Regional Workshop on Opportunity and Participation; and

(3) commend the further development of the proposal in close consultation with relevant Government agencies, foreign Governments and international organisations - and, above all, the wider community of people concerned with increasing Opportunity and Participation in (but not only in) the economies of developing countries.

22. A report of the proceedings, including this Summary and Outcome of Discussion, of the Papua New Guinea National Workshop on Opportunity and Participation will be prepared for:

(1) consideration by relevant Government agencies;

(2) inclusion of the papers to be distributed in preparation for the Regional Workshop; and

(3) wider distribution among those who are interested in the issues and options raised - in Papua New Guinea, the Asia-Pacific region, developing countries, members and agencies of the United Nations.

23. Signed in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, on 16 July 1993, by:

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John R. Kaputin, CMG MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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3. REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

AGREED STATEMENT ON THE OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS, PORT MORESBY, 17-18 SEPTEMBER 1993

(as signed in person by the participants named)

1. Having listened with close attention and great interest to the Opening Address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable John R. Kaputin CMG MP, and having read the Report of the National Workshop held in Port Moresby on 15-16 July 1993 plus Background Documentation, the participants in the Regional Workshop are strongly and unanimously of the view that it is timely --- and indeed, urgent --- for the United Nations General Assembly to be formally asked to agree to a Resolution during the Forth-Eighth Session (which convenes in New York on 21 September 1993) to establish a panel of distinguished, expert and experienced persons, broadly representative of the international community, to prepare a comprehensive, systematic and through report for consideration by the Fiftieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly (in 1995) on the subject of Opportunity and Participation.

2. The overseas participants and representatives of the national private sector and other institutions on the Regional Workshop congratulate the Papua New Guinea Government on the initiative.

3. Noting and welcoming the expressions of interest and support which the proposal has already received from many Governments and international organisations, including the Group of Seventy-Seven (G77) ambassadors from developing countries in New York, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) and the South Pacific Forum, participants in the Regional Workshop recommend to members of the international community, including Governments of both developing and advanced industrial countries, as well as relevant regional and international organisations, that:

   (1) the proposal should be adopted by consensus in the United Nations General Assembly; and

   (2) they give most serious consideration to assisting in implementation by providing practical support, including financial and human resources.

4. Having considered and discussed both the issues raised in the Minister's Opening Address and subsequent discussion, as well as the supporting documentation (including, in particular, the formal "Request for the Inclusion of an Item in the Provisional Agenda of the Forth-Eighth Session, Opportunity and Participation, " United Nations General Assembly Document Number: A/48/142 of 3 May 1993 and the "Outline of Possible Terms of Reference for the Proposed United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation with Special Reference to the Economies of Developing Countries", which appear as items II.3 and 8 in this Report, participants in the Regional Workshop feel that the proposal has highlighted the need for a global vision, clearly defined objectives, and a practical strategy for achieving specific objectives in order to increase opportunity and participation in development --- locally, nationally, regionally, and globally.

5. They believe that the proposed United Nations report should be prepared so that it both draws on experiences and stimulates efforts to increase Opportunity and Participation on a local, national, regional and global basis --- with particular regard for the interests, needs and aspirations of people, governments and other bodies in developing countries.

6. The proposal is made all the more appropriate --- and pressing --- by factors such as the:

(1) increasing pressure being placed on available - and prospective - sources of foreign aid, investment and commercial loans by changes occurring in other parts of the world, including Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and elsewhere;

(2) growing tendency for people who make and influence policy, both in governments and in international organisations, to assume that markets and private sectors themselves increase --- and provide a bridge between --- opportunity and participation, even for people beginning with the relative lack of effective access to officially and commercially recognised resources, including experiences and skills, characteristic of people in the rural areas of developing countries; and

(3) continuing failure by the international community to take sufficiently urgent, decisive and effective action to deal with economic issues of global importance, such as those raised in the Uruguay Round of Negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade - let alone the worsening circumstances of and in many developing countries; and, in particular,

(4) need to ensure that development does not simply lead to the exhaustion of natural resources which are recognised to be non-renewable, such as copper, gold and oil, to the depletion of natural resources, which ought, in principle, to be renewable, such as forests and fisheries, or to environmental damage --- without providing for increasing economic opportunity, continuing human development and sustainable participation for future generations.

In making point (2), participants in the Regional Workshop do not comment on the changes themselves, or suggest that they necessarily giver rise to competition between countries in different regions or with differing developmental needs. In fact, they believe --- very strongly -- that acceptance and implementation of the proposed Resolution by the United Nations General Assembly should be regarded as an occasion for North-South, South-South, regional and other forms of international co-operation, including exchanges of information about experiences of diverse political, economic, legal, administrative and social systems.

7. In the course of almost two days of deliberations, participants in the Regional Workshop have drawn on their respective areas of government, the private sector and educational institutions, in international organisations and in various parts of the world, in order to identify issues, including both obstacles and possible options, relevant to increasing opportunity for and participation by citizens in national development of their respective countries. They recognise that their experiences come mainly from the Asia-Pacific region, while hoping that they will be of interest and use to people, non-governmental organisations and governments elsewhere --- just as they hope to learn from others themselves.

8. They have paid particular attention to practical difficulties which arise --- and practical means which might be employed --- in linking opportunity effectively to participation. Human resources development is an important key.

9. They recall the Minister's statement that many obstacles to opportunity and participation have been inherited, imposed or otherwise imported, while others are essentially homegrown. In doing so, they declare that self-help based on self-examination in relation to self-inflicted and self-induced difficulties should --- and may, indeed, have to come before seeking outside scapegoats or assistance.

10. They believe that bodies which engage in efforts to increase opportunity and participation must be accessible, affordable, acceptable to intended beneficiaries --- and conducted with full regard for the interest of succeeding generation. Such bodies must be accountable for their actions (and inactions).

11. Governments, international organisations and other bodies should recognize that development requires:

(1) vision and a sense of direction

(2) clear objectives,

(3) sensitivity to particular circumstances as well as the interests of particular social groups, including women, handicapped persons, and ethnic and other minorities;

(4) planning based on practical measures, and effective links between Government policy, mechanisms which might assist in implementation, and people; and

(5) action - not more, or mere words - based on recognition of the reality that development is a multifaceted and ongoing process, in which capacity-building for self-reliance is essential.

Meaningful opportunity and participation should be regarded as integral aspects of human development, including human rights.

12. Careful consideration should be given to the need to improve national, regional and international arrangements for:

(1) collecting, analysing, projecting and disseminating important data;

(2) planning beyond - and arguably, apart from - annual budgetary processes;

(3) co-ordination within and between both national governments and international institutions; and

(4) ensuring ongoing legal, administrative and institutional performance appraisal, review and reform.

13. Close attention should be paid to the perceptions and experiences of people and bodies who view development from below, or who deal with government from outside. Non-governmental organisations may often have vital and valuable contributions to make.

14. In considering the details provided in the proposal being circulated at the United Nations, especially Paragraph 14, participants in the Regional Workshop draw particular attention to the need for efforts to increase opportunity and participation, including the proposed United Nations report to take full account of:

(1) national values, including customs and aspirations;

(2) the contributions which might be made by non-governmental, government and inter-governmental - including local, national, regional, global and functional - organisations;

(3) the particular circumstances of people living in rural areas, including the distribution of openings and the delivery of government services to people in areas remote from major urban centers; and

(4) the requirements of sustainable development, including the implications of population growth and movement.

15. The Regional Workshop has discussed - and urges that further attention should be given to - the need for governments, regional and international organisations and the wider community to recognise that development requires:

(1) mobilisation of people and resources, based on awareness of the actual circumstances in which people, particularly rural villagers, women and other disadvantaged groups, spend their lives;

(2) discipline and accountability in all areas of government, including management and financial control, in order to ensure that "public services" are, in fact, provided;

(3) respect for - and maintenance of - existing services and infrastructure; and

(4) due regards for traditional and changing values in particular communities, the contribution which might be made by - and to - non-governmental organisations, and human rights.

16. Capacity-building must be defined so that it includes the transfer of technology and scarce skills, education, training, and progressive localisation. Human resources development, including the elimination of illiteracy, innumeracy and lack of awareness of available opportunities for participation, must be given the highest priority at all times.

17. The advantages of access to the best that the world has to offer must be carefully weighed against the need for capacity - including institution - building at home.

18. Institutions created to assist in development, their effectiveness in facilitating technology transfer, training and other exchanges, as well as such conditions as they might seek to impose should be as transparent as possible, externally accountable, subjected to periodic close scrutiny and review, frankly discussed, and, where appropriate, changed by agreement between concerned parties.

19. Policy-makers should recognise the role that traditional ties and informal networks can - and do - play in development, including the influence that foreign "*wantok*" systems, criminal elements and confidence-tricksters can have in defining opportunities for participation in national development by citizens of developing countries. "Opportunity" and "Participation" must not be allowed to become instruments of opportunism and parasitism.

20. Above all, change, development and capacity-building - in short, increasing opportunity and participation - should be regarded as continuing , multifaceted processed, which should be viewed in the round (from above, below, and all sides) and managed so that they can be sustained and enjoyed by future generations.

21. Questions of equity, distribution and sustainability should be considered together with measurement of growth.

22. Recognising the increasing inter-dependence of even the most diverse aspects of human life and widely scattered parts of the world, participants in the Regional Workshop on Opportunity and Participation welcome the Papua New Guinea Government's efforts and plans to ensure that the proposed United Nations Initiative of Opportunity and Participation obtains the widest possible regional and international support.

23. They believe that discussion, acceptance, and implementation of the initiative can make an important contribution to:

    (1) mutually beneficial North-South, South-South, regional and other forms of mutually beneficial international co-operation;

    (2) realisation of the objectives of the United Nations Secretary-General's proposed Agenda for Development; and

    (3) implementation of the right to development recognised and declared by the United Nations Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in June 1993.

24. They are emphatically of the view that members of the United Nations should regard the initiative as having international, including regional as well as domestic, policy implications.

25. Participants in the Regional Workshop on Opportunity and Participation -

(1) have appreciated the invitation to take part in the Regional Workshop - by listening to each other, exchanging experiences, and being able to add to the growing stock of shared ideas; and

(2) express their personal gratitude - and continued support - for the contributions, including financial assistance, provided by the Untied Nations Development Programme.

26. They value the opportunity provided to participate in helping to refine the terms of reference for the proposed United Nations initiative on Opportunity and Participation.

27. They commend the further development and refinement of the proposal in close consultation with all members of the United Nations, interest non-governmental organisations, and relevant regional and other international organisations.

28. Echoing sentiments expressed on behalf of the Government of Papua New Guinea by the Papua New Guinea Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable John R. Kaputin CMG MP, they believe that the proposed United Nations initiative on Opportunity and Participation deserves the widest - and strongest - possible support from everyone concerned with Opportunity and Participation, particularly in and by the economies of developing countries.

29. A report on the proceedings, including this Agreed Statement, of the Regional Workshop on Opportunity and Participation will be distributed to members of the United Nations, relevant regional and international organisations and other interested parties, including non-governmental organisations.

30. Signed in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 18 September 1993 by:

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Minister for Foreign Affairs

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* The Workshop was serviced by the Secretary, Mr. Gabriel Dusava, and staff of the Papua New Guinea Department of Foreign Affairs.

4. OUTLINE OF POSSIBLE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PROPOSED UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE ECONOMIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

(prepared during the National Workshop for consideration by participants in the Regional Workshop, and possible use in framing the terms of reference for the proposed United Nations panel)

1. A draft Resolution on the above is currently being prepared in consultation with other Governments and international organizations for possible presentation to the forthcoming (Forty-Eighth) Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

2. The preambular paragraphs of the Resolution will refer to previous and other current efforts, including relevant UNGA Resolutions.

3. The operative paragraphs will provide for:

   (1) the establishment of a panel of distinguished, expert and experienced persons, broadly representative of the international community, to prepare a report; and, in particular,

   (2) the panel's funding and procedures, including deadlines and reporting requirements.

4. As presently envisaged, the terms of reference for the panel will both be subject, and make reference, to the proposed Resolution.

5. They might then go on to propose that the panel should -

- o consult, by seeking submissions and stimulating discussion on the widest possible basis,
- o in order to prepare a comprehensive, systematic and thorough report,
- o on issues and options, including specific practical measures which might be taken,
- o in increasing opportunity and participation, with particular reference to the economies of developing countries,
- o paying close attention, *inter alia*, to the parts that governments and international organisations can play
- o by removing obstacles,
  introducing reforms, and

  assisting in the provision of necessary links.

6. The panel should take a multi- and inter-disciplinary approach, embracing relevant areas of:

(1) public policy, law, and administration, and

(2) economics, finance, and banking.

including the parts that governments, international organisations and non-governmental organisations, including commercial bodies in the private sector, might play.

7. It should take account of:

(1) historical and cultural factors, including values , practices and aspirations;

(2) national sovereignty and systems of government; and

(3) the availability of human, financial and other resources.

8. Its findings should be consistent with:

(1) international law, including the Charter of the United Nations;

(2) national sovereignty; and

(3) the rights of

- citizens, including -

women,

indigenous people,

minorities,

children,

physically and intellectually handicapped persons, as well as

other disadvantaged groups.

9. They should:

(1) take full account of relevant aspects of the regional and international environment;

(2) draw on actual experiences in identifying issues, obstacles and options worldwide; and

(3) be drawn up with due consideration for the particular circumstances of least developed island developing and land-locked countries.

10. The recommendations should be:

(1) sensitive to particular local, national and regional experiences, circumstances and aspirations;

(2) specific;

((3) detailed; and

(3) capable of practical implementation.

11. They should be consistent with, and directed towards -

    (1) capacity-building,

    (2) the achievement of national self-reliance,

    (3) sustainable development, and

    (4) international (including North-South, South-South and other forms) of co-operation

    - on an ongoing basis.

12. The panel should simultaneously:

    (1) draw on, and

    (2) seek to stimulate,

    a worldwide information exchange.

13. While seeking to meet the ultimate deadline, it should be encouraged to produce:

    (1) discussion papers, and

    (2) interim reports.

14. The above are, obviously, not in draft terms of reference so much as guidelines for use in drafting.

15. Having been invited to do so, participants in the National Workshop on Opportunity and Participation have considered their refinement and elaboration.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/545
4 November 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 93

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In response to General Assembly resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and Economic and Social Council decision 1992/204, the Secretary-General submitted a report in 1992 to the coordination segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council on "Policies and activities relating to assistance in the eradication of poverty and support to vulnerable groups, including assistance during the implementation of structural adjustment programmes". 1/ The report examined the state of coordination in the United Nations system in the area of poverty alleviation and eradication and formulated specific suggestions to improve and strengthen coordination processes and structures, including the need to develop a coherent system-wide framework for action in the area of poverty alleviation. Moreover, it provided a range of recommendations, including for collaborative and joint efforts in the design and implementation of programmes, strengthened coordination for data collection and a better allocation of available resources, as well as reaching consensus on the approach to poverty reduction at the country level.

2. The consideration of the report led to a series of recommendations as part of the statement of the President of the Economic and Social Council contained in annex IV of the report of the Council to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. 2/ Subsequently, the subject was considered by the Assembly, which adopted resolution 47/197 of 22 December 1992, entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries". In paragraph 10 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on progress made in coordinating action, in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations and other multilateral bodies, to formulate improved and enhanced action-oriented technical cooperation programmes for the eradication of poverty in all countries, particularly in developing countries, within the framework of the United Nations system, in accordance with the policies, priorities and strategies of those countries.

3. Pursuant to that request of the General Assembly and taking into account the conclusions reached by the Economic and Social Council in 1992, the present report provides preliminary information on progress achieved since 1992 and on plans to improve further coordinated action in the fight against poverty. It should be seen in the light of the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General to the Council, 1/ and of his report to the Council in June 1993 on the "World Summit for Social Development, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development", 3/ as well as the "1993 Report on the World Social Situation", also submitted to the Council. 4/ Further reports on these and related issues will be prepared for the World Summit for Social Development.

II. GENERAL TRENDS

4. Technical cooperation programmes are country-specific. Moreover, their coordination is primarily the responsibility of recipient countries, as most recently reaffirmed in the General Assembly in its resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992. Thus, any consideration of the subject in terms of

paragraph 10 of resolution 47/197 should take into account the different country contexts, and should be based on country-level information. The present report has made extensive use of information provided by the United Nations system field teams, through resident coordinators, to underscore the decentralized, country-specific nature of technical cooperation programmes.

5. A preliminary review of available information indicates that poverty alleviation programmes of one sort or another are becoming central to technical cooperation provided by the United Nations system in most developing countries. There is a broad recognition that owing to the intrinsic, multidisciplinary nature of the subject-matter, a multisectoral, coordinated response by the United Nations system is essential.

6. Given the diverse, interlinked challenges of poverty alleviation, and the complex, cross-sectoral nature of poverty, agencies with sectoral mandates have found it effective to work together on this front. As a result, United Nations technical cooperation efforts in this field are being increasingly characterized by broad inter-agency collaboration.

7. Moreover, in its resolution 47/199 the General Assembly established parameters aimed at achieving enhanced coordination and better integration of United Nations system operational activities for development into national programmes, including through the country strategy note, a strengthened resident coordinator system, the programme approach and national execution. In this context, the country strategy note is viewed as a key coordinating instrument containing the response of the United Nations system to national goals and priorities, including poverty eradication. Current indications are that most developing countries will adopt the country strategy note as a planning tool over the next two years and that within many notes poverty alleviation will be a key focus, in accordance with national priorities. With national poverty-oriented programmes being the basis of United Nations cooperation, technical cooperation is increasingly being provided under coordinated national management, integrating various external support elements as part of the programme approach.

8. At the conceptual level, there is now broad recognition within the United Nations development system that poverty eradication requires a two-pronged approach: employment creation and the increase of household income on the one hand, and provision of basic human services on the other. Neither type of activity offers an adequate solution if carried out without the other. In addition, even when both approaches are being promoted, there may be a need to create social safety nets to protect the most vulnerable.

9. On the basis of preliminary reporting, it is apparent that the United Nations development system has taken many steps to meet the challenge of poverty in a coordinated manner. Moreover, initiatives are being taken that will further ensure a coordinated response. It is recognized that the pressing web of challenges on the poverty alleviation front will require continuous attention to developing and using the most effective methods to mobilize all resources in pursuit of a common goal.

III. SCOPE OF WORK AT COUNTRY LEVEL

10. Existing reporting arrangements with resident coordinators were utilized for a country-level assessment of poverty-oriented technical cooperation programmes. Moreover, a few organizations that are heavily engaged in poverty-oriented activities were asked to provide relevant information. The present report will subsequently be complemented by the documentation being prepared for the World Summit for Social Development, which will provide a fuller picture of the entire range of United Nations system activities in this area.

11. At the present time, poverty alleviation is a major goal or the top priority of the majority of country programmes of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) being submitted. The trend is for human development initiatives to be formulated within the context of poverty alleviation programmes. These initiatives and the implementation of country programmes involve many partners working together in a coordinated manner.

12. The national programmes of action supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to implement the goals agreed to at the World Summit for Children are often prepared within the context of national poverty eradication strategies, either as part of national development plans or within the framework of the UNDP-supported human development initiative. In that connection, UNICEF reports (see the report of UNICEF to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/321)) that some 89 countries have now finalized national programmes of action, all of which are concerned with eliminating or greatly reducing the worst manifestations of poverty by the year 2000. Together with roughly 26 national programmes still in draft, these cover almost 90 per cent of the populations in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

13. Poverty alleviation has been chosen as one of the three priority objectives of the work programme of the International Labour Organization (ILO) for the biennium 1994-1995. There is continuing provision in the future work programme of ILO for the coordination of its activities in the field of poverty alleviation with other United Nations agencies. This covers the preparation of reports and other activities aimed at achieving greater complementarity and consistency in the design and implementation of activities concerning employment policies for poverty alleviation in the rural and informal sectors as well as better coordination with the United Nations system in these areas. In addition, with a view to strengthening its collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), studies will be undertaken aimed at developing an ILO strategy on the utilization of food aid in the fight against poverty.

14. The World Bank continues to prepare country poverty assessments, 80 of which should be completed by 1995. These assessments are on the one hand key tools for both the World Bank and national planners charged with the design of national poverty alleviation programmes. At the same time, these studies are the source of valuable lessons learned from those countries which have successfully reduced poverty in recent years.

15. An area of increased cooperation and coordination in several countries is that of poverty alleviation initiatives being carried out in the context of

disaster mitigation, targeting refugees and returnees. The focus is on enabling disaster victims to become productive members of society by providing them not only with food, health, shelter and sanitation, but also with income-generating opportunities.

IV. STRENGTHENING UPSTREAM CAPACITIES, INCLUDING DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

16. It is widely recognized that there is a need for the United Nations development system to assist in the strengthening of developing country capacities for upstream and design stages of poverty-oriented programmes. The system's efforts in that regard have frequently entailed inter-agency collaboration, as well as cooperation with donors and non-governmental organizations.

17. The Statistical Division of the Secretariat has long been a key actor in this field, building up national capacities to collect, analyse, disseminate and use appropriate statistical data. For example, through its national household survey capability programme, which is co-sponsored by UNDP and the World Bank, the Division has since 1979 been building capacities to gather the data that are the basic building blocks for poverty assessments and measurements. Supported also by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF and bilateral donors, the programme was being carried out in 50 developing countries by the end of 1992. The data compiled by the household survey feeds into such studies as those of ILO on labour force, employment and wages, of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) studies on food consumption, nutrition and integrated rural development, of UNICEF on living conditions of mothers and children, and of the World Bank on income distribution, poverty and living standards. The World Bank's Social Indicators of Development 1993 has in fact introduced new "priority poverty indicators", which have drawn on the household surveys carried out with the technical assistance of the Statistical Division of the Secretariat.

18. Through an inter-agency working group, the Statistical Division is also collaborating with UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA to improve the empirical basis on which to measure, at the country level, progress towards attaining social goals, both national and such global goals as the 1981 Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000 of the World Health Organization (WHO), the 1985 Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women adopted by the World Conference on Women, the UNFPA-sponsored 1989 Amsterdam Declaration on a Better Life for Future Generations, and the 1990 UNICEF-sponsored World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children.

19. The inter-agency working group used the assistance of the Statistical Division to carry out pilot studies in five countries to assess the range of problems faced in measuring and monitoring social and human development progress. The studies were carried out in Kenya and Mali in sub-Saharan Africa, Ecuador and Mexico in Latin America and the Philippines in Asia. The Statistical Division and UNICEF are now considering the replication of those studies in several East African countries, including Kenya, Malawi, Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania. While the long-term objective is to help build statistical capacity generally, a more immediate objective is to begin the

exercise in four focal countries to compile data of use in monitoring progress vis-à-vis their national plans of action.

20. Also making important contributions to the strengthening of developing countries' upstream capabilities in poverty alleviation efforts is the Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). This is the only intergovernmental body with open, universal membership dealing exclusively with issues of poverty prevention, alleviation and reduction.

21. The Standing Committee organizes intergovernmental groups of experts prior to each of its sessions to discuss a topic for the exchange of experiences in anti-poverty policies and programmes. These groups include government policy makers, experts from international organizations, non-governmental organizations and community representatives. "Exchanges of experiences on poverty reduction impacts of social funds and safety nets, including mobilization of domestic and external resources for poverty alleviation" is the scheduled topic for 24 to 28 January 1994.

22. The Standing Committee also promotes workshops in developing countries to facilitate the exchange of experience on the poverty front especially in relation to topics being discussed by the Standing Committee at its following session. Thus, a workshop hosted by the Government of Tunisia will be held from 15 to 19 November 1993, co-financed by UNDP and the Government of the Netherlands and in cooperation with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, on social mobilization and organization of the poor. A second workshop, to be jointly organized with ILO, will cover the effects on poverty alleviation of structural adjustment programmes, job creation policies and means for the participation of small-scale and micro-enterprises in international trade.

23. The UNCTAD Standing Committee will identify, for consideration, areas in which technical cooperation should be strengthened. In addition, its secretariat will provide technical assistance to countries, at their request, with special consideration to the needs of the least developed countries. In that regard, UNCTAD is providing inputs into the UNDP country programme of Mongolia in relation to the establishment of a social fund for poverty alleviation. At the same time, Mongolia has been invited to participate in the intergovernmental group of experts on social funds and safety nets referred to above.

24. Also in response to the need to strengthen developing countries' capacities for collecting and analysing data on poverty, the sixteenth session of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination, held at Geneva from 13 to 16 September 1993 and attended by representatives of member countries, United Nations and specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, set up a task force on the measurement of poverty. The task force will be convened by the World Bank and serviced by the UNCTAD Data Management Service.

25. The members of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)) continue to be quite active in the area of building developing country capacities for

collecting and analysing data on poverty. The Consultative Group has targeted six countries for collaborative assistance in the area of poverty alleviation and human development.

26. In one of these countries, for example, the Joint Consultative Group on Policy and the World Bank, under the leadership of the Government, carried out a joint situation analysis of poverty. Subsequently, a database on United Nations organizations' activities in the field of poverty alleviation was established, with information on strategies, objectives, areas of intervention, type of support, beneficiary groups and implementing agency.

27. At the regional level in Africa, the UNDP/World Bank/African Development Bank assessment of social dimensions of adjustment project set in motion a regular system of statistical compilation on poverty alleviation and under the fifth cycle of UNDP a comprehensive regional poverty alleviation programme at grass-roots level is being prepared.

28. The UNDP-funded critical poverty project in Latin America and the Caribbean has made significant progress in developing strategies, methodologies and techniques for measuring and analysing poverty using innovative techniques. It was carried out in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the ILO Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean.

29. At the regional level in Asia, UNDP, ILO and government agencies are formulating a new programme on integrated strategies for poverty alleviation. It will encompass macro- and sectoral policies with emphasis on people's participation and involvement of non-governmental organizations. FAO and the World Bank are closely associated with the preparation of the project. As an example of inter-agency collaboration at the country level in the region, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and other organizations, including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, are involved in updating a database on human development indicators in India, where they are also training social scientists involved in policy research on health and education and social protection for vulnerable groups.

30. ILO undertakes many studies in collaboration with national authorities and local researchers on the factors and processes that lead to the generation and perpetuation of poverty and successful approaches and policies to alleviate it. Those detailed studies, carried out in a large number of countries, have had a particular focus in recent years on the impact of adjustment policies on poverty and those dimensions of their linkage which can enable the ILO to provide technical assistance in the areas of its competence.

31. In late 1993, the ILO International Institute for Labour Studies is organizing a symposium to explore new approaches and issues, both in the analysis of poverty and in the design of policy, to stimulate debate between researchers and practitioners about their usefulness for ILO and its constituency.

V. NEW PARTNERSHIPS TO PROMOTE AN INTEGRATED AND PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

32. The efforts of the United Nations development system to help developing countries strengthen their institutional capacities to implement their poverty alleviation programmes have generally entailed an integrated approach, with attention to both social services and income-generation, and increased participation of local communities and non-governmental organizations.

33. For example, in one Caribbean country, in 1992 poverty alleviation was selected by United Nations organizations and agencies as a theme for joint action. The programme will promote income- and employment-generation initiatives linked to physical infrastructure development that meets such basic needs as housing, water and sanitation. Coordination of the programme is being carried out by a steering committee formed by the Government, various United Nations entities and interested donors, with United Nations agencies assuming responsibility for issues falling within their areas of competence. The programme will target communities selected on the basis of social deprivation. Baseline studies of the communities to determine the scope of needed intervention and to serve as a basis for evaluation will be prepared with assistance from UNDP.

34. Inter-agency collaboration in carrying out this integrated approach to poverty alleviation is also evident in one African country, where UNICEF and WHO have been supporting a joint nutrition support programme that includes activities in maternal and child health, water and sanitation, household food security, child care and development, income-generation and research. The programme has demonstrated extremely positive results from strengthened capacities of communities to assess, analyse and take actions to address their most urgent problems.

35. In an effort to ensure broad, participatory involvement of the target population in poverty-oriented activities, a number of UNDP-funded pilot experiences that associate users in the prioritization of needs and development of strategies are producing interesting results.

36. For example, the special programme resources of UNDP are being tapped to fund the partners in development programme, currently being carried out in 32 countries in Africa, 18 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 15 in Asia and the Pacific, and in 8 Arab States. The programme supports community-based self-help initiatives, including income-generating activities designed to alleviate poverty and networking to strengthen the dialogue among non-governmental organizations, Governments and UNDP. A national selection committee on which non-governmental organizations, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies and the Government are represented helps select the non-governmental organizations and grass-roots groups to be granted funds under the programme.

37. Also supported with special programme resources funds, the Local Initiative Facility for Urban Environment (LIFE) promotes "local-local" dialogue among municipalities, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations to improve the quality of the urban environment. In its first stage, it is being carried out in two countries per region (United Republic of Tanzania and

Senegal; Thailand and Pakistan; Jamaica and Brazil; and Egypt and Morocco). Activities include demonstration projects that improve the urban environment and break the cycle of poverty. An advisory panel, which meets annually to provide policy guidelines and review the progress of the Facility, consists of mayors, representatives of non-governmental organization networks, cities associations and bilateral donors contributing to the Fund.

38. The impact of the above innovative special programme resources initiatives will be evaluated at the beginning of 1994, and the lessons learned will be taken to the World Summit on Social Development.

39. The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) domestic service programme is another UNDP-supported grass-roots activity that relies on broad community participation to sustain poverty alleviation measures.

40. Given the close linkages between environmental degradation and poverty in Africa, the UNDP-supported Africa 2000 network programme, carried out in 20 African countries with financing from Canada, Denmark, Japan and Norway, helps community-based projects that protect the environment and promote ecologically sustainable development at the grass-roots level. Groups participating in the network include African environmental and development non-governmental organizations, women's groups, village councils, farmers' associations, traditional peoples' groups, trade unions and youth groups. Linkages are established by the network with local government technical services and national research and training institutions.

41. Also in relation to the objectives of Agenda 21, an ILO concern is to ensure that the transition to more environmentally sound patterns of development is achieved in a manner that contributes to higher levels of employment and the alleviation of poverty. Studies will be undertaken on the employment and income-distribution effects of environmental policies, with special attention to the environmental vulnerability of poor communities. Advice will be provided on how to include employment considerations in assessments of environmental issues.

42. In a number of countries on which information is now available, non-governmental organizations are becoming increasingly active partners of the United Nations development system in poverty alleviation programmes. In one Asian country, for example, non-governmental organizations are working with the Government, UNDP, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), ILO, WHO, WFP, UNFPA and UNICEF in the formulation of an overall programme for poverty reduction. In a country in the Arab region, UNICEF is working with a network of 15 non-governmental organizations on reaching pockets of poverty with primary health care and vocational training. In the same country, a project assisted by UNDP and executed by a local private foundation is training government and non-governmental organization personnel in poverty alleviation strategies and approaches. For its part, WFP works with some 300 local and international non-governmental organizations involved in relief and development activities. It has recently taken steps to strengthen its support to non-governmental organizations, particularly in the context of small-scale projects in sub-Saharan Africa and for experimentation with novel uses of food aid, by delegating to its country offices the authority to provide food (up to 5 per cent of the value of WFP resources in any individual WFP-assisted project,

or an annual maximum of $200,000) as an additional commitment to local non-governmental organization-assisted projects that have similar objectives and beneficiary groups as WFP-supported projects.

43. To stimulate higher levels of economic growth and generate productive employment, ILO encourages enterprise-creation and investment programmes as well as technologies that are both employment-intensive and accessible to the poor. Over the next few years it will be developing community-based approaches to promote small enterprise development schemes in depressed rural and urban areas. It will advise on innovative approaches for the provision of information, direct support services and the selection, adaptation and transfer of suitable technologies in the informal sector. Advice will also be given on how urban infrastructure investment can be channelled to alleviate urban poverty and increase productivity and social protection in the informal sector. In addition, ILO intends to prepare a manual on how to plan and implement poverty alleviation and income-generation programmes using community-based approaches, and will strive to enhance the availability of training focusing on the needs of the poorest groups in rural communities, as well as on especially vulnerable groups such as women and girls.

44. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is relying on poverty alleviation methods that are broad-based but targeted towards the most marginalized. A key tool being used to target assistance is "vulnerability mapping". IFAD is making efforts to elaborate such mappings in a number of countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where they can also play a critical role in mitigating the effect of drought or other disasters.

45. Once the poor have been clearly identified, the challenge is to provide them with access to resources, infrastructure, technology and social services in order to increase their productivity. IFAD has found that such access works as a springboard for the rural poor and is more effective than safety nets. Moreover, it is finding that the enhanced productivity and self-reliance of the rural poor on a micro-level can lead to macroeconomic growth.

VI. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR POVERTY-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES

46. Enhancing the resource mobilization capacity of developing countries for poverty alleviation has been another important focus of coordinated United Nations efforts.

47. In that regard, UNICEF and UNDP have been advocating the concept of "20/20", which calls on developing country Governments to devote a minimum of 20 per cent of their domestic budgetary expenditure to human development priorities and, similarly, encourages donor countries to allocate a minimum of 20 per cent of their development assistance to the same priorities. These efforts are already showing signs of success. At the International Conference on Assistance to Africa's Children sponsored by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and held in Senegal from 25 to 27 November 1992, "20/20" was incorporated into the Consensus of Dakar. African countries committed themselves to increasing the share of public expenditure allocated to health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation and family planning, while donor

countries agreed to increase their support for those human development priorities in countries where national Governments have taken the lead.

48. In two African countries, significant progress is being achieved with regard to resource mobilization for poverty alleviation. In the Gambia, the Joint Consultative Group on Policy assisted in the preparation of a comprehensive assessment of poverty and, in consultation with other United Nations agencies, helped formulate a national strategy and programme for poverty alleviation. This will be submitted to a donor round-table conference to be held at Geneva in December 1993.

49. As a result of a meeting of the Consultative Group on Ethiopia held in Paris in 1992, it is expected that donor support will be targeted to population groups in extreme need through the provision of safety nets. In addition, the World Bank and IMF have approved credits for structural adjustment with the objective of reducing poverty through rapid labour-intensive growth.

50. In other countries, resource mobilization for poverty alleviation is carried out in the context of the disaster relief-rehabilitation-development continuum. In Rwanda, for example, responding to the critical situation of the war-displaced population and at the request of the Government, the international community held discussions on viable ways to assist over 1 million displaced people in acute poverty. A needs assessment study led to the establishment of a coordinating mechanism for emergency assistance. Subsequently, inter-agency missions assisted in the preparation of a global plan of action for emergency humanitarian relief. Launched in April 1993, the plan involves the mobilization of $78 million. UNDP and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs will sponsor a round table in 1993 to mobilize additional resources for those purposes. In addition, the World Bank and UNDP are assisting in the preparation of a national programme for social action to assist vulnerable groups. Following the work of related joint missions, UNDP, ILO, WFP, UNV, UNICEF and other organizations are involved in the programme. WFP and UNDP have committed $16 and $3 million respectively, and the World Bank has approved loans for $19 million.

VII. INTER-AGENCY FOCUS ON IMPROVED TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION

51. Given the wealth of experience being accumulated by the United Nations system in the field of poverty alleviation and the need for a mechanism for more intensive and systematic exchange of such experience at the field and global levels, at its second regular session of 1993, held in New York from 20 to 24 September, the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions established a working group on poverty alleviation. Initial members are IFAD, ILO, the United Nations, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, UNDP, UNFPA, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNICEF, WFP, WHO, FAO and UNCTAD.

52. While members of the Consultative Committee felt that cooperation in research and analysis was now being effectively covered by the Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation of UNCTAD and through the International Institute for Labour Studies of ILO, they considered that the Committee could make a contribution by identifying gaps and weaknesses in technical cooperation

programmes now being implemented, exploring ways to improve statistics and dissemination of information on poverty issues and establishing clear operational targets requiring inter-agency cooperative action.

53. At its initial meeting, the working group agreed to begin its work by focusing on the development of appropriate United Nations system inputs to country programmes, based on an information exchange and analysis and synthesis of actual programme experience; the identification of resource and operational gaps; the development of multisectoral strategies in application, inter alia, of resolution 47/197; and the coordination of the different sectoral structures and commitments of agencies in the field. Account will be taken of the processes leading to poverty and of the catalytic impact of the World Summit for Social Development.

Notes

1/ E/1992/47.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/47/3).

3/ E/1993/77.

4/ E/1993/50.